

# Pioneer Times

The Society of Indiana Pioneers Newsletter

140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317-233-6588 • www.indianapioneers.com



Issue 4 September 2010

## Tribute to President Kenneth Beasley

Members of the Board of Governors were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of President Kenneth Beasley, 79, on May 12, 2010, in Indianapolis following a brief illness of just a few weeks.

Born in Bedford and reared in Richmond, Ken was a proud alumnus of Wabash College and held graduate degrees from Harvard (MA) and Northwestern (PhD). He retired from a distinguished career as a college administrator at the University of Colorado, Northern Illinois University and Butler University and remained in Indianapolis.

He joined The Society of Indiana Pioneers in 2002 and served on the Board of Governors and as Vice President/President-elect before assuming the presidency following the Annual Meeting on November 7, 2009. At the first meeting of the Board of Governors at which he presided, he made the committee assignments and challenged the Board to undertake several new initiatives to promote membership.

Members were first informed of his death on the spring pilgrimage to Corydon on May 14 and Co-Vice Presidents/Presidents-elect Carolyn Rose and Stanley Evans assumed the office of Co-Presidents at the regular meeting of the Board which had been previously scheduled for June 19. At that meeting, the Board adopted a resolution paying tribute to the leadership of Ken Beasley and expressing condolences to his family.

Ken was survived by his wife Betsy, Indianapolis, and four sons, Jonathon, Christopher, Timothy and Thomas.

## Scanning Project Moves Forward

The archives of the Society of Indiana Pioneers include original applications and documents submitted for proof going back to 1916. All applications and proofs submitted from 1916 through 1967 have been scanned and may be accessed by the Genealogist and other officers without further handling of the very valuable originals. Donations received from the members have been utilized to purchase our own scanner and the Genealogist has scanned the applications and proofs received in 2006 thru 2010. Our hope is to continue the scanning from 2005 backward as time and resources permit until all of the records are available digitally and the archives can be appropriately protected and preserved.

We are soliciting gifts for this purpose. If you would like to help with this effort, please complete and detach the form below.

**Yes**, I would like to donate to the *Pioneer Application Scanning Project*.

\$10.00     \$25.00     \$100.00     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your check payable to:

The Society of Indiana Pioneers,

140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204

## Honoring Pioneer Founders

At the 2010 summer meeting of the Board of Governors, an initiative was approved to pay tribute to exceptional pioneers for their efforts in building early Indiana. The Society of Indiana Pioneers was founded in 1916, when Indiana celebrated its 100th anniversary of statehood. In preparation for the 200th anniversary of statehood — and the Society's centennial celebration — the Society seeks to honor special pioneers from each of Indiana's 92 counties.

A committee chaired by Bob Dora undertook the project to allow contributors to nominate ancestors for this distinction. Each year, 15 to 20 counties will be selected and invited to submit nominations of Pioneer Founders to be honored at the Annual Meeting. At the Centennial celebration in 2016, Pioneer Founders from all 92 counties will be honored. Nominations for 2010 were solicited from the following counties: Allen, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Delaware, Harrison, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Marshall, Montgomery, Putnam, Scott, Shelby, Starke, Switzerland, Vigo and Wayne. Details can be found on the Society's web page.

## Popular Silent Auction

Again this year, a Silent Auction will be a feature of the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 6. All proceeds from the auction benefit the Society of Indiana Pioneers and help defray expenses for the Annual Meeting. All members and their guests are invited to participate by donating and purchasing!

We have been pleased and somewhat amazed with the variety of items offered for sale in prior years. Items to include are books, wine, jewelry, decorative items, event tickets, and Indiana memorabilia. Let your imagination be your guide! The looking, talking and bidding were a fun time for all.

Bring your check book and/or cash and plan to participate! No Credit cards, please. If donating, please call Auction Chair Louise Demore (317-517-3243) or Vice Chair Marcia Krieg (317-253-2600).

## Co-Presidents' Message / Carolyn Rose and Stanley Evans

My, how life can change in a year!

Last year at this time we had agreed to serve as Co-Vice Presidents. After election at the November Annual Meeting, we thought that we had two years to learn and grow in knowledge of this organization. Now, because of the unfortunate passing of Dr. Ken Beasley, we serve as your first Co-Presidents of this great organization. We are honored to serve.

We have had a steep learning curve. The days and weeks since May 19 have been very busy for us. First, we looked at the goals which had been laid out by Dr. Beasley. Then, we took a long range view of our society ---where it is now and where we want to be by the Centennial Year of 2016.

The result of our study and consultation with members developed into a master plan for the next few years leading up to the Society's 100th anniversary. Since we are the Society of Indiana Pioneers, we emphasized two key words---Indiana and Pioneers. Our plan is to bring awareness of the organization to all residents of Indiana. Along with the awareness of the Society, the goal was to bring back the focus of the original founders by initiating a program to honor Founding Indiana Pioneers from each of the 92 counties. This mirrors "TO HONOR THE MEMORY AND THE WORK OF THE PIONEERS OF INDIANA".

At the Board of Governors meeting in June, the members approved the first phase of the program. The newspaper committee chose 18 counties in which to advertise and issued a press release to those counties asking for nominations of worthy pioneers for our Pioneer Founders Program. Due to this advertising, over 500,000 Indiana residents have been exposed to our program and to the Society of Indiana Pioneers. In addition, we continue to advertise in the DAR magazine, American Spirit. The Board also approved the production and distribution of a DVD about the Society. This will provide a useful tool for the Speaker's Bureau and can be an addition to our web site. The primary goal of this marketing effort has been to expand the Indiana membership and to honor our ancestors and early pioneers who built this great State of Indiana.

There is more to this organization than just the Board and Officers. You as members are a vital part. We ask each of you to be an ambassador for our organization. Encourage your family, friends, and associates to complete their genealogy and join our group. Take out memberships for your children and grandchildren so that they can have their name in the yearbook listed with your family ancestors. All of us can help our organization grow and prosper if we "spread the word". Finally, if you have time and would like to be active in the organization, please call the office or contact your Co-Presidents.

Thank you for allowing us this wonderful opportunity to lead the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

*Carolyn Rose Stanley Evans*

## Looking Ahead

Plans are underway for a September, 2011, pilgrimage to the Brown County area with a stop in nearby Columbus. Highlights will feature a tour of the T.C. Steele State Historic Site which includes the House of the Singing Winds and the restored studio of the renowned Hoosier artist. The day is to include a gourmet dinner at the Story Inn in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century village of Story, Indiana, a tiny community adjacent to Brown County State Park. Details are still being worked out for a visit to the Columbus home of the late J. Irwin Miller, civic leader/philanthropist. The home is expected to be open to the public for the first time in the summer of 2011.

The date and other reservation details will be mailed to members of the Society in the spring, 2011.

## Retiring Governors

Four members of the Board of Governors will complete the second of two terms at this year's Annual Meeting and, under the By-laws, are ineligible to be elected for another consecutive term on the Board. We acknowledge and give special thanks for the service of these dedicated volunteers: Ruth Dorrel, Mary Alice Hines, Mary Jane Meeker and Michael Miller.

## Fellowships help Students of Early Indiana History

To support the object of our Society and to honor the memory and work of our pioneer ancestors, the Board of Governors established the Society of Indiana Pioneers Fellowships to promote scholarly research in Indiana history during the pioneer period. All eleven colleges and universities in Indiana that offer graduate degrees in history are contacted to solicit applications by worthy students for these awards.

Awards Committee Chair Dr. James Fadely announced the 2010 winner of a \$1,000 Fellowship is Jennifer Roman, a doctoral candidate at the University of Notre Dame. Her dissertation topic is "It Once Meant Something to be Midwestern: Faith, Moral and Progressive Reform, Vigilantes and Mental Healthcare in Indiana." Jennifer has been invited to discuss her work as our guest at the annual Meeting in November.

## Genealogist's Update:

Hello! Once again it has been a busy year. I have managed to scan in all of the 2006-2009 applications which I have added to the 1916-1967 applications database. This is a tremendous help since it allows me to access the application without having to disturb the original application. The older applications dating back to the beginning of the organization have become extremely fragile from many years of handling. Many members have benefited from access to some of the valuable early records that we have amassed in our archives.

Our new office location within the 1st floor of the Indiana State Library in the Genealogy Section has brought our organization quite a bit of extra exposure. We frequently have patrons take our brochures and applications not to mention stop in and ask questions. I am currently down at the office on Thursdays for several hours.

The latest advertising in the DAR magazine and local Indiana county newspapers has brought many new members as well as quite a number of new ancestors. We are closing in on 8200 ancestors that have been approved since 1916! Many new members have been able to access ancestor information from our website which has been helpful as well.

— Michele Kerr